



Photos above are, from left to right, in order: (1) 550 Baptist men crowd dining room in Jackson for prayer breakfast; (2) Dr. W. Douglas Hudgins, Jackson, who presented guests, (left) listens closely as Dr. Earl Kelly, Jackson, acts as MC; (3) Missionary Lewis Myers speaks; (4) Missionary Wayne Frederick relates experiences; (5) Missionary Charles Tópe speaks; (6) FMB Staff Member Samuel DeBord challenges men; (7) Gov. William Waller (left) shakes hands with Sam Pittman, FMB staff member. Both the latter men also were speakers.



# 550 At Statewide Men's Prayer Breakfast

## Group Suggests Ways To Speed Relief

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist response to national disaster should be faster, an ad hoc committee of state and agency Brotherhood and mission representatives attending a statewide disaster relief meeting said here.

To speed response, the committee recommended to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) that a national coordinator be appointed, a how-to manual be written. Recommended also was the development of a uniform arm band symbol for immediate recognition of qualified volunteers.

They also recommended seminary training in awareness and sensitivity in response to disaster, using minimizers, and j-terms (month - long).

The committee gave their recommendations to Paul Adkins, director of the HMB's Christian social ministries department which administers disaster relief funds of \$100,000 per year to churches and individuals as direct gifts to those in need.

Normal procedure is for funds to be requested from and channeled through state conventions.

"We sent \$6,000 this morning to Alaska to help in the Nome area which was hit last week by high tides and winds," said Adkins.

(Continued On Page 3)



Mrs. Grantham

## Mrs. Grantham New Music Assistant

Mrs. Kerry J. (Nan) Grantham, who has been serving as part-time music consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Music Department, will become a full-time music assistant in the department on Jan. 1, according to an announcement by Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the board.

Mrs. Grantham has also been serving as part-time music assistant at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Dan Hall, director of the Music Department, explained that Mrs. Grantham earned her bachelor of science in music education degree from Mississippi College in 1967 and a master of music degree from Mississippi College in 1972. She was a graduate assistant while working on her master's degree, and her thesis was on developing a basic theory program for graded choirs.

Mrs. Grantham has taught music in kindergarten and public schools in Texas and Mississippi, Hall said. She has worked in all phases of choir programs in local churches and served as pianist for churches in Texas and Mississippi. For the past four years she has been pianist at Broadmoor Church.

She taught in church music schools during college days and has taught piano for 17 years. She holds national certification with the Mississippi Music Teachers Association and is on the

(Continued On Page 3)

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1974

Volume XXIII, Number 39

## Board Organizes For Year '75

### Children's Village Holiday Fund Need Is Emphasized

Giving to the needs of the boys and girls at The Baptist Children's Village at Thanksgiving and Christmas is a tradition. In announcing the annual appeal to individual Baptists and friends of children for support of its "Holiday Fund," the Village administration emphasized the importance and urgency of the 1974 Thanksgiving-Christmas campaign.

In a recent report, Superintendent Paul N. Nunnery stated, "The impact of inflation, which has struck our mission effort beyond prediction or control, has ravaged Village operating funds. We can not appeal to Baptist churches as organized groups until Mother's Day of 1975 for additional financial support. In the absence of the most substantial money response to our 'Holiday Fund' appeal in history, Christmas will become a bleak experience for boys and girls at The Children's Village, in terms of material joys. More seriously, our ability

to adequately supply the food needs of our agency for the immediate future will be seriously jeopardized.

"Although we are conscious of economic uncertainties and financial difficulties which confront many private families in Mississippi, we nevertheless implore every individual to prayerfully consider sharing the bounty of his holiday table and the blessings of his family with the less fortunate and family-less children who depend upon us and are compelled to make their homes with us."

Village authority explains that the proceeds of the "Holiday Fund" are designated to provide a modest number of Christmas presents for the children under care, with the most substantial part of the fund allocated to the underwriting of the Village's food and milk budget for the entire year.

Mr. Nunnery has explained that while gifts in kind, including wrapped Christmas presents for Village boys and girls of all ages, are acceptable and welcomed, the primary need is for cash gifts to the "Holiday Fund."

The Baptist Children's Village is the official child care agency of Mississippi Baptist Convention. Although the agency shares financially in a Cooperative Program allocation, it remains dependent upon designated giving approximately 70% of its min-

(Continued On Page 2)

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at its post-convention session Nov. 26, elected officers and an Executive Committee for 1975, named committees and changed the time for its annual principal business meeting.

Elected as president of the 100-member body was Dr. Harold Kitchings, Kosciusko with Rev. Al Finch of Jackson named as vice-president and Rev. Ed Gandy of Bruce elected as recording secretary.

The Executive Committee is composed of the three officers above in addition to six others elected by the Board, as follows:

Glenn Perry, Philadelphia; Rev. Oliver Ladnier, Magee; Dr. Harold Bryson, Carthage; Dr. John Barnes, Jr., Hattiesburg; Rev. John Causey, Corinth, and Dr. Raymond Lloyd, Starkville.

Immediately following the Board meeting, the Executive Committee met and elected the following officers:

Mr. Perry, chairman; Mr. Gandy, vice-chairman, and Mr. Finch, recording secretary.

The annual principal business meeting of the Board, held previously each year in September, will be held in August beginning in 1975.

According to Board policy, the principal business meeting is held on Tuesday after the fourth Sunday, so next year's meeting will be on Aug. 26.

Committees approved by the Board for 1975 are as follows, with the first one named in each case to be the chairperson:

Assembly and Camp Program Committee: Bartis Harper, David Merritt, Gus Merritt, Davis Gardner, David Millican, and John Barnes.

(Continued On Page 2)

Three Southern missionaries told of God meeting their needs through prayer and their particular prayer needs today at the Mississippi Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast held Saturday morning, Nov. 30 at the Jackson Hilton Hotel.

550 Mississippi Baptist men, including pastors, laymen and other leaders, from every section of the state, were present for the breakfast, with many turned away because of lack of space.

Gov. William Waller, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., jointly sponsored the event, with Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, serving as master of ceremonies.

Two representatives from the board in Richmond were present, Dr. Samuel DeBord, secretary of the department of promotion, and Rev. Sam Pittman, associate.

These two leaders told of world needs and the work of the Foreign Mission Board and appealed to the men present to take a greater interest in world missions.

Gov. Waller, a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson, extended welcome and stated the purpose of the auspicious meeting. Continuing, he said:

"Many factors are involved in making this a tremendously important meeting."

"The fact that a large number of Mississippi Baptist lay leaders are here, along with many of the fine laymen from over the state, suggests its vast importance."

"Other factors, too numerous to mention, remind us of the tremendous potential of this impressive meeting."

"The most important factor regarding this gathering is found in its high and noteworthy purpose—that of mission."

(Continued On Page 2)

## Leavell New President Of New Orleans Seminary

Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II, 48, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, has been elected president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He will take the reins of the seminary January 1, according to Dr. Robert S. Magee, president of the Board of Trustees.

Leavell succeeds Dr. Grady C. Cothen, who resigned last spring to become president-elect of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville. The executive assistant to the president, Dr. Ray T. Rust, has guided the seminary as acting president since March 1, 1974.

The son of a Baptist minister, the seminary president-elect is the second Leavell to head New Orleans Seminary. He follows in the footsteps of his uncle, the late Roland Q. Leavell, who steered the seminary from 1946-58.

A native Tennessean, Landrum Leavell grew up in Newnan, Georgia, where he graduated from high school in 1944. He then attended Mercer University, earning the Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1948.

Following his ordination as a Baptist minister in the same year, Leavell enrolled in New Orleans Seminary. He received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1951 and his Doctor of Theology Degree in 1964.

Prior to accepting the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Leavell was pastor of churches in Pike County, Crosby, Charleston, and Gulfport, all in Mississippi. He moved to Texas in 1963.

Active in denominational affairs, Leavell headed the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors' Conference, 1970-71, served as first vice-president of the SBC, 1967-68, and delivered the convention sermon at the 1967 SBC meeting in Miami Beach. He also chaired the trustees of the BSSB, 1968-70, and was a member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, 1961-63. He is presently serving his second term on the Home Mission Board.

On the state level seminary president-elect Leavell has served two terms as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He has



Dr. Leavell

also been a member of several convention committees.

In Wichita Falls he has played an active role in community affairs, serving on the Childs Welfare Board, the board of the United Fund, and the Mayor's Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Leavell is the author of several books, including John's Letters: Light

(Continued On Page 3)

## Two Retreats For Musicians Ready

Two retreats for church musicians will be held in January in Grenada, and near Lumberton according to Dan C. Hall, director of the Music Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The sectional retreats are scheduled for north Mississippi Jan. 21-22 at the Holiday Inn at Grenada and for south Mississippi Jan. 23-24 at the Holiday Inn at the Hillsdale exit of Interstate 59 near Lumberton, Hall explained.

Four persons from each church will be permitted to attend. Hall indicated that though the retreats are primarily for musicians, any church member of the music director's choice within the four member limit would benefit from the retreat. The \$10 registration fee for the church should be sent in advance to the Music Department. One fee covers all participants.

The retreats will begin with a noon meal on the first day and conclude with a noon meal on the second day. The participants will take care of their own room and food expenses and should make their motel reservations, Hall said.

Tom Eliff, pastor of the Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., will be the conference leader. The music-

(Continued On Page 2)



New officers and Executive Committee of the Convention Board, elected Nov. 26, were, from left, seated: Dr. Harold Kitchings, Kosciusko, president of Board; Glenn Perry, Philadelphia, chairman Executive Committee; Rev. Al Finch, Jackson, vice-president of Board and recording secretary of Executive Committee; Rev. Ed Gandy, Bruce, recording secretary of Board and vice-chairman of Executive Committee. Standing: Rev. John Causey, Corinth; Dr. Raymond Lloyd, Starkville; Dr. Harold Bryson, Carthage; Dr. John Barnes, Jr., Hattiesburg, and Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer. (Not shown is Rev. Oliver Ladnier, Magee)

## 33 State Conventions Report Harmony And Growth

By Baptist Press

Thirty-three state conventions, affiliated with the 12.3-million-member Southern Baptist Convention, completed annual sessions, admit unanimous reports of harmony and numerical and financial growth.

Harmony, reports indicated, was the hallmark, even though several state conventions dealt with some thorny issues.

A keynote of the conventions, which cover 50 states, was support of the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget and a determination to coop-

erate with the Southern Baptists goal to raise \$150 million dollars in Cooperative program funds through the SBC's 34,000 churches in 1975-76 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

The world hunger crisis seemed to be another common concern in the state convention sessions — drawing comment from at least nine conventions — Texas, North Carolina, Indiana, Mississippi, Arizona, Michigan, the District of Columbia, Florida and Kentucky.

Four — Illinois, New York, Alabama and Mississippi — reacted to a possible name change for the South-

ern Baptist Convention, a subject now under study by a seven-person committee authorized last June in Dallas at the annual SBC meeting.

Three Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, expressed concern about the charismatic movement, and Georgia tabled a motion on it.

Several conventions opposed violence, profanity, and sex on television, asked for prayer support for President Ford and his programs of conservation and called for action to bring about integrity in government.

At the Missouri Convention, where controversy had erupted at the previous annual meeting, registered

"messengers" bound up the wounds of disunity inflicted by a protracted controversy over financial management procedures.

Missouri Baptists overwhelmingly approved, without change, recommendations from the convention's restructuring committee, which had been born out of turmoil over reported mismanagement of Missouri Baptist funds.

The Missouri convention set mandatory retirement age for convention staff at 65, delayed until next year's convention a motion to set up a separate board for the convention's state

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# 550 At Men's Prayer Breakfast

(Continued From Page 1)  
sions, and particularly foreign missions in a world that stands today in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ more than ever before.

"I do not have to remind you of the needs of the world today—in terms of food, medical care, education, communication, and the like, but the purpose of this meeting tells us that man's greatest need is spiritual, in the sense of being right with God.

"We are all vitally interested in all of man's needs, and our program of missions does assist the people of the world in meeting these necessities, but man's supreme need is that of a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

"It is the hope that this breakfast will challenge the Baptist men of our convention to a deeper prayer concern for the idea of missions.

"Even though there will be brief messages from Southern Baptist missionaries, special music and other supporting features, prayer and concern for missions is our main concern.

"We believe in prayer, God has answered our prayers, and our faith in prayer has brought us together here for this occasion.

"The Lottie Moon Christmas offering for Foreign Missions and the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program provide the two main sources of support for the Foreign Mission Board, which today has 2336 missionaries, embodied in a program of missions, education and benevolence in 63 countries around the world.

An Annual Event

"The offering has become an annual event in Mississippi Baptist life and we believe that because of our effort here that Mississippi Baptists will respond this year as never before and that we will all leave here inspired to go back to our churches with a greater concern than ever for missions."

The breakfast was timed to accentuate the 1974 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions in the Southern Baptist Convention Dec. 1-3 and the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The nationwide goal for the offering is \$25 million, and the Mississippi goal is \$1.4 million.

Rev. Wayne Frederick, missionary to the French West Indies, told of some of the problems that he and his family faced, and that were resolved largely through prayer.

He told of political unrest, strikes, and of a group of people who resented

(I was not bounding)

## Minnesota Tax Plan

### Unconstitutional

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (C-SNS) — Minnesota's tax credit plan for providing tax aid to parochial schools was unanimously declared unconstitutional on November 26 by the Minnesota Supreme Court. The parochial plan, passed by the legislature in 1971, provided more than \$10 million annually to parochial and private schools in the form of state income tax credits or refunds to reimburse parents for tuition.

The successful legal challenge to the parochial plan was brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, and a coalition of teachers, parents, and religious organizations. Attorney for plaintiffs was Lynn S. Castner of Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Supreme Court's decision was based upon the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling against the tax credit parochial plan in *PEARL v. Nyquist*.



## Two Retreats . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

On the program will be Ron and Betty Ann Turner, also of South Carolina. The Gregories have five children, ages ten to nineteen.

His first Sunday on the field was the occasion for the dedication of the new sanctuary for West Heights. On this occasion two former pastors, Rev. Gerald Buckley and Rev. Charles Gentry, were present. Buckley is now pastor of Parkway, Natchez, and Gentry is pastor of Morrison Heights, Clinton.

the presence of the missionaries.

Missionary Tope Speaks

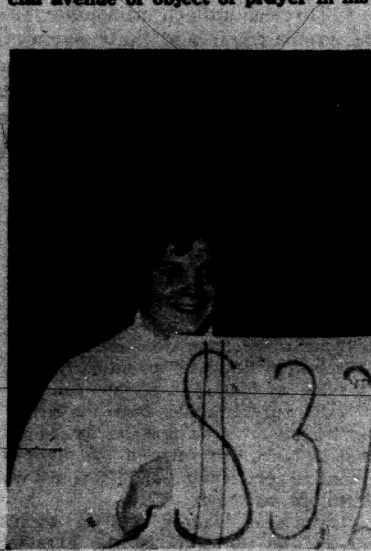
Rev. Charles A. Tope, missionary to Kenya, Africa told of the need for trained leadership when he began his work there.

He related how through prayer and other assistance that "bush" Bible schools were started and how they have helped to train many local leaders.

He added that today in Uganda "hard times" have come upon the people and even some missionaries have been banished from the country.

Rev. Lewis Myers, missionary to Vietnam, also told of prayer needs there.

He especially urged prayers for the Southern Vietnam people, the missionaries who serve there under very difficult circumstances. He said a special avenue of object of prayer in his



## Clarke Students Set Offering Goal

Figures on the placard represent the goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions set by unanimous vote of the Clarke College student body. The goal choice was made following the showing of a missionary film and a worship period presented around the Thanksgiving theme by the Clarke College choir and the Bells Ensemble. Pictured holding the placard are Deborah Sweet, Gulfport (L), Moses Clark, Prattville, Alabama, and Deborah Roy, Paxton, Illinois.

## Board Organizes

(Continued From Page 1)

Budget and Cooperative Program Promotion Committee: Gene Triggs, P. A. Michel, James Wheatley, John Taylor, Lewis Myers, and Glenn Perry. Church-Minister Relations Advisory Committee: Perry Claxton, M. F. Rayburn, Henry Adams, Joe Meadows, Nat Mayhall, and Olive Ladner.

Church Program Organization Committee: Mrs. Vernon May, Graham Smith, Billy Greene, Lee Ferrell, Mel Craft, and Raymond Lloyd.

Missions and Evangelism Committee: Russell Bush, Roy Myers, James Gatewood, Gowan Ellis, James Hurt, and John Causey.

New Church Expansion Committee: Wesley Ellis, Jack Nazary, C. D. Fagard, Hayes Callicutt, Eugene Dobbs, and Al Finch.

Pastoral-Church Building Aid Committee: E. R. Pinson, Millard Purl, Jasper Neal, Theron Baldwin, Horace Carpenter and Harold Bryson.

## Mrs. Anne McWilliams Visiting Central America

Mrs. Anne McWilliams, Editorial Associate of the Baptist Record, is making a three week visit to mission fields in Mexico and Central America. She left on Friday, November 21, and will return on December 11.

The trip is under the auspices of Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd. and the Baptist Record, with full approval of and direction of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## West Heights Calls Gregory

Jack Gregory is new pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc. He moved there from the pastorate of Highland Church, Hope Mills, North Carolina.

Gregory, native of South Carolina, received his education from Furman University, and Southern Baptist Seminary, with clinical training from the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem.

His previous pastorates have all been in South Carolina and North Carolina.

Gregory is married to the former Betty Ann Turner, also of South Carolina. The Gregories have five children, ages ten to nineteen.

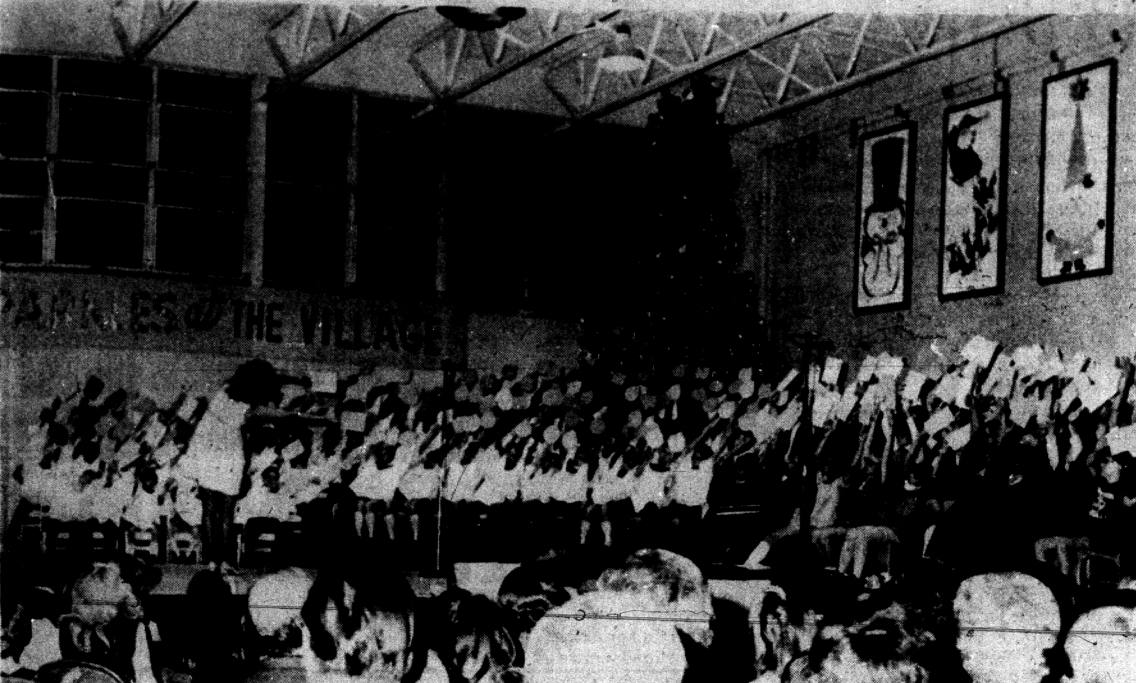
His first Sunday on the field was the occasion for the dedication of the new sanctuary for West Heights. On this occasion two former pastors, Rev. Gerald Buckley and Rev. Charles Gentry, were present. Buckley is now pastor of Parkway, Natchez, and Gentry is pastor of Morrison Heights, Clinton.

heart, and he hoped that of others, is for a young Vietnam Air Force lieutenant who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

Rev. James Richardson, Leland, the newly-elected president of the State Convention, gave the invocation, with Dr. John Taylor, pastor of First Church, Grenada, and member of the Foreign Mission pronouncing the benediction.

Dr. W. Douglas Hudgins, Jackson, executive secretary-treasurer emeritus of the Convention Board, and former president of the Foreign Mission Board, presented the guests.

Special prayer was followed by music rendered by "the Creations," singing group from First Baptist Church, Greenville and musical meditation by Ed Sudduth, Indianola, organist with the Watson Evangelistic Association.



## "Christmas Sparkles At The Village" Dec. 13-14

More than 140 children sing and perform in "Christmas Sparkles at the Village," to be offered in its 10th Anniversary production by The Baptist Children's Village on Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14, at 7:30 P.M.

The general public is cordially invited to this admission-free production which has become a popular Christmas tradition.

## Children's Village . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

imum operating needs.

Through its steadily expanding ministry of care to the total needs of the homeless neglected and dependent Mississippi child, The Children's Village in 1974 has extended custodial service to 325 different boys and girls, ranging in age from pre-schoolers to young people on the college level. Expert, professional advisors and consultants consistently evaluate the Village program as both professional and compassionately Christian.

Gifts to the Holiday Fund may be mailed to The Baptist Children's Village, Box 11308, Jackson, Mississippi, 39213. Further details may be obtained by telephoning the Village offices in Jackson at 922-2242.

## State Pastor Leaves

### For Evangelistic Crusade In India

Rev. Otis Seal, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Meridian, leaves on December 5, for a two weeks evangelistic crusade in South India.

He is being accompanied by John Vos of Orlando, Florida, who will direct the music, and Dewey Stalvey Jr., of Meridian, who will handle the sound systems. Vos is Music Director on the E. J. Daniels Evangelistic Team, and Stalvey is a member of Calvary Church.

The first meeting, which begins next Sunday, December 8, will be in Trivandrum, a city of 300,000 people, in extreme South India. There 100 churches have organized for the crusade, and a preaching place which will seat 15,000 to 20,000 has been provided. There is a probability that a second meeting will be held in another city, but the name is not available.

These meetings are under the direction of the Christ for the World Crusades organization, of which Dr. E. J. Daniels is director. Dr. D. S. Spurgeon, a university professor, is handling details of the crusade in the Indian cities.

Expenses for the entire team is being provided by Calvary Church and some interested friends.

## National Ateens Conference

June 25-29, 1975

Memphis, Tennessee

A HAPPENING ON THE MISSISSIPPI

- For Ateens — grades 7-12
- One Adult for every five girls
- Sponsored by WMU, SBC

Mississippi WMU is sponsoring groups that will be traveling by bus to Memphis. One bus will leave Jackson on June 25, travel up Highway 49 E. and make the following stops:

49 E. Stops: Yazoo City  
Greenwood  
Clarksdale

Another bus will leave from McComb and will make the following stops:

I-55 N. Stops: Brookhaven  
Jackson

If you are interested in attending the National Ateens Conference, please write Marilyn Hopkins, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

## Clinton Pastor's Book Cites Whitfield Influence

Bill R. Baker, a popular young Clinton pastor, has been hard at work for the last three years on the biography of a sometimes forgotten man in Mississippi history. Henry L. Whitfield, governor of Mississippi from 1924 to 1927, is the subject of Baker's research, and his book is entitled *Catch the Vision: The Life of Henry L. Whitfield*. It was published by the University Press of Mississippi. The foreword to *Catch the Vision* was written by veteran historian R. A. McLemore, editor of the two-volume *A History of Mississippi* published by the University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton, was inspired by Whitfield's life and his philosophy of work and has long felt the need for an assessment of Whitfield's administration. In his preface he states that Whitfield's life story helped him "catch the vision," and that he feels privileged to reconstruct Whitfield's life.

Whitfield served Mississippi as schoolteacher, State Superintendent of Education, president of Mississippi Industrial Institute and College, and finally as governor. The accomplishments of his gubernatorial administration were so broad and far-reaching that his administration is generally regarded as a turning point in the history of the state.

He was a thoughtful man who conducted the affairs of the state with dignity, insight, and a conscientious effort to relate to the will of the people.

His term as governor proved to be a progressive but halcyon period in Mississippi politics — a calm after the James K. Vardaman-Theodore G. Bilbo storm.

Whitfield's defeat of Theodore G. Bilbo in the 1923 gubernatorial election came as a surprise to some Mississippians. The newly enfranchised women for the first time played a vital role in an election. Under the leadership of the alumni of Mississippi Industrial Institute and College, Mississippi women strongly supported Whitfield and probably contributed greatly to his success in the election.

Dr. Baker is not the average minister in that, in addition to his bachelor of divinity degree, he holds the Ph.D. in history from Mississippi State University. Members of his church report that in his sermons he often draws from the lessons of history, and they also know they can rely on the historical accuracy of his comments.

Baker actively participates in the life of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, having served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Clarke College, member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and pastor advisor to the Baptist Student Union ministry in Mississippi. He has served as pastor of the Mantee Baptist Church in Mantee and the First Baptist Church in Calhoun City. In addition to serving as pastor of First Church, Clinton, he teaches Mississippi history at Mississippi College. The book is priced at \$7.95.



Dr. Bill R. Baker (right) presents R. A. McLemore (left) a copy of his new book *Catch the Vision: The Life of Henry L. Whitfield*, published recently by the University Press of Mississippi. Dr. McLemore wrote the foreword to the book.

## Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



WASHINGTON, D. C. — Documents in Washington have disclosed that a dozen religious organizations were among the 60 "subversive" groups watched by a special tax unit set up in 1960 at White House bidding. Included was Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

PHILADELPHIA — Parishes in the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia are expected to accumulate a deficit of some \$10 million over the next three years, according to the archdiocesan controller. There was an indication that tuition and fees at the parish elementary schools would have to almost double by 1977.

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America has cancelled its 1975 clergy-lay conference and will give the \$15,000 saved to the denomination's World Hunger Appeal.

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N. C. — The United Methodist Council of Bishops has called on President Ford to make available three to four million tons of wheat for starving nations and to make a pledge toward the \$5 billion per year needed for long-range agricultural development assistance to the world's poorest countries.

COLUMBIA, S. C. — George W. Cornell, religion editor of Associated Press, said that almost every major social issue today has a moral-religious aspect which must be seriously considered.

INDIANAPOLIS — The Reconciliation Steering Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has allocated \$127,620 for 22 programs assisting racial minorities, the poor, and the powerless.



# 33 State Conventions ---

(Continued from Page 1)

paper, the Word and Way, and passed recommendations designed to improve management of funds.

On the question of alien immersion—accepting of immersed Christians from other bodies without rebaptism—North Carolina Baptists defeated a motion which would have eliminated messengers from churches which practice it, and Arkansas Baptist approved the voluntary withdrawal of messengers from a church to avoid controversy over it.

The issue in Arkansas concerned First Baptist Church, Russellville, which accepts persons baptized in other Baptist bodies. The controversy has continued for several years. Russellville messengers elected to withdraw but pledged continued support for Southern Baptists and the Cooperative Program.

On the question of an SBC name-change, a debate which arises periodically, Illinois and New York said another name would be more appropriate to a nationwide body, while Mississippi passed a resolution opposing such a change. Alabama Baptists tabled a motion opposing a name change, responding to a plea by a messenger to have an open mind and not restrict deliberations of the name-change committee.

Two state conventions—South Carolina and Virginia—faced the question of Baptist colleges receiving public money.

In South Carolina, Baptists established guidelines for the use of federal money and set up a watchdog committee to oversee the matter. The convention's action stipulates for their four colleges that the funds be used "with discrimination and upon proper safeguards." It limits use of government funds to non-religious and non-sectarian purposes of the institutions and prohibits acceptance of funds that would lead to "intolerable or undue elements of government control."

Expected controversy over the status of two Virginia Baptist Colleges, Averett and Virginia Intermont, failed to materialize, as messengers accepted an earlier action of the state convention's general board to refer the debate over charter changes at the two schools to the board's executive committee for study.

Earlier in the year, trustees of the two Baptist schools changed their charters to qualify technically as "non-sectarian" so their students could receive state tuition grants.

The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, which has progressed through financial troubles to solvency in the past six years, approved

ed the sale of its office building in Wichita, Kan., and a move to Topeka in five years.

Two conventions—the District of Columbia and Oklahoma—took opposing stands on ordination of women. Oklahoma went on record as opposing, while D. C. called for ordination of women on an equal basis with men.

In Illinois, messengers faced a problem relating to alleged misappropriations of funds from the Baptist Children's Home, Carmel.

The administrative committee of the convention's board was asked to review auditing practices of Illinois state Baptist funds and report back to the board. The board was asked to take whatever action necessary and report back to the 1975 annual meeting.

The problem involves James Paynter, the home's business and development director, missing since Aug. 31, and the disappearance of at least \$28,000 over the past three years, according to incomplete audits. Messengers, however, passed a motion to seek Paynter's "redemption."

In New Mexico, messengers elected a new executive director, Chester O'Brien of Amarillo, Tex., to succeed R. Y. Bradford, who is retiring. O'Brien has served as superintendent of missions for the Amarillo Baptist Association of churches for the past nine years.

In Tennessee, Baptists set up a statewide ministry for the aging, and in Michigan they voted to purchase a new office building on the northwest edge of metropolitan Detroit, to occupy by April 1.

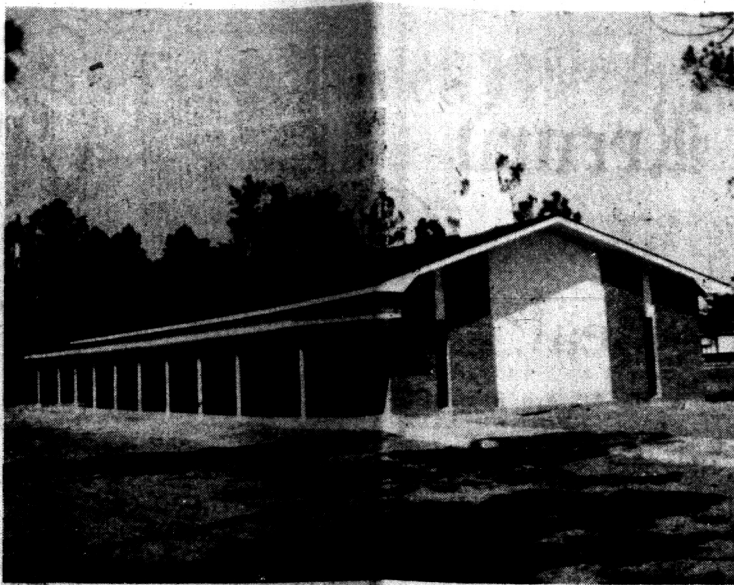
Alabama Baptists, in an effort to more nearly equalize tuition cost between state supported and Alabama Baptists schools, approved a scholarship from Cooperative Program funds for a qualified Baptist student.

## Leavell New Head ---

(Continued From Page 1)

for Living, For Prodigals and Other Sinners, Angels, Angels, Angels, and God's Spirit in You. He received the George Washington Honor Medal Award from the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., for his 1968 sermon entitled "America at the Crossroads."

He is married to the former Jo Ann Paris of New Orleans, a graduate of Ward-Belmont College in Nashville and Newcomb College in New Orleans. They are the parents of four children, Landrum P. III, Ann, Ronald Q. II, and David.



The new building of Southside Mission in Gautier will be dedicated Dec. 8. Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the speaker.

## Group Suggests ---

(Continued From Page 1)

The committee said a national coordinator would operate out of the HMB's Atlanta offices with fulltime responsibilities of assisting state conventions in providing training and identifying governmental referral agencies and types of equipment needed.

"This person should have at hand a computer printout of plumbers, carpenters, physicians and paramedical personnel ready to drop everything and give three days to two weeks to disaster relief," Adkins noted.

The how-to manual which the committee plans to bring work on immediately should become a policy

and action guideline for state conventions interested in disaster relief. It will include information on the impact phase, the cleanup and inspection phase, reconstruction and repairs after a disaster.

The committee said they hoped these recommendations would help solve the two basic problems in disaster relief: identification of services needed and logistics of providing food, housing, clothing, counseling.

Other suggestions included each convention providing a fund which would be used immediately in a disaster, and chaplains to be assigned to teams relating people to the congregations in the disaster area.



## Alleluia At Van Winkle

The Music Ministry of Van Winkle Baptist Church will again perform the musical Alleluia Monday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The first performance was well received with an overflowing crowd. The musical will feature a 105 voice choir under the direction of Dr. John Milner. The public is invited.

Thursday, December 5, 1974

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

## Kelly To Speak At Dedication Of Southside Mission, Gautier

The dedication of the new building at Southside Mission in Gautier has been set for Dec. 8, at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the principal speaker. The sponsoring church Ingalls Avenue Church in Pascagoula, was organized into a church nine years ago.

The property was purchased and the mission was started through the joint contributions of the sponsoring church, Jackson County Baptist Association, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The eight acres of property were brought in August, 1973. The mission was started Sept. 16, 1973 with 16 members present. Ingalls Avenue Church borrowed \$50,000 for the erection of the building. Rev. Zeno Wells, associational missions superintendent, served as build-

ing supervisor and thus saved several thousand dollars in construction costs.

The mission is now making payments on the building notes and is completely self sustaining except for payments on the land. The average offerings are now above \$400 per Sunday. Of this amount 10 per cent is given through the Cooperative Program and 3 per cent is given to Jackson County Baptist Association. The mission membership has reached 40 and a steady growth is anticipated.

The mission committee of the sponsoring church is J. B. Duncan, Frank Odom, and James Kent.

The committee from the mission is John Webster, Ted Prevost, and Ed Sanders.

Rev. Bob Storie is serving as the interim mission pastor. Dr. Allen O. Webb is pastor of Ingalls Avenue Church.

## SBC Annuity Board ---

(Continued from Page 1)

real estate investments."

The Annuity Board had, prior to the downturn, been moving slowly toward putting 50 percent of its investments into stocks. But the board eased off stock investments.

"We haven't allocated any 'new money' for stocks in 18 months," the investments officer said. We presently have about 36 percent of our portfolio in common stocks, he added, and we will probably keep it within 40 percent.

Durham expects the stock market to climb. "In the next 18 to 24 months, the market probably will regain the high point it had reached in January, 1973," he observed.

"When that occurs, our stock portfolio will be in good shape, including the recovery of our variable fund (Plan C)," he said. Plan C, tied to equities, or stocks, dived along with the sliding market.

"As the general market picks up to any extent, Plan C should do a little better," Durham said.

The stock market affects total investment programs of the Annuity Board, which includes two major retirement plans, in addition to Plan C.

Durham doesn't anticipate interest rates remaining as high as they have been. "We feel in the long term, interest rates will drop to some extent," he declared. Again, the diversified approach will help calm the scene.

The Annuity Board simply will look around for the best place to invest its money elsewhere, he said.

If the Annuity Board has suffered with the declining stock market, consider what has happened to some other pension funds, where 80 percent of their money had been invested in stocks.

Obscured by the avalanche in stock prices has been the fact that many corporations, despite the lower quotations on the exchange, have been paying a higher dividend, Durham said.

The Annuity Board's dividend experience has stood up well through the economic pinch. "We don't own a stock that has failed to pay at least its regular dividend or one higher than usual, despite their position on the exchange," Durham continued.

The senior vice president for investments said the extent of the decline caught even the experts by surprise. "Apparently most money managers really did not anticipate this drop," he commented.

Investors lost confidence in the stock market and this became perhaps the major contributor "to what we could consider an unusual decline."

## Mrs. Grantham ---

(Continued From Page 1)

board of auditors for the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

Mrs. Grantham has experience in leading workshops and clinics in the field of children's music and last summer served on the music faculty at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Assemblies, Hall added.

She is listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges," "Outstanding Young Women of America," "Personalities of the South," and "Who's Who of Musicians." Her husband is regional vice-president for Fidelity Union Life Insurance Co.; and they have a son, Jim, 13, and a daughter, Kerry, 9.

## Preparing For The Harvest

"Take a good look at the fields: the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! The man who plants and the man who reaps will be glad together. I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work."

—from John 4:35-38 TEV

Before the harvest, the missionary must cultivate the field  
—and have nourishing resources to give.  
Before he cultivates, he must plant  
—and have plentiful seed of high quality.  
Before he plants, he must plow the unbroken ground  
—and have tools to work with.  
He must be patient and faithful  
—and have unfailing support from those who share his vision.

The missions timetable demands vision and long-range investment. Seedtime and harvest, the stores of prayer, faith, personnel, and funds must be constantly replenished. Southern Baptists have 81 missions fields in varied stages of harvest. The upcoming Week of Prayer and Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings for Foreign Missions can speed the missions timetable.

### Breaking Ground



In the Niger Republic, one of Southern Baptists' newest missions fields, missionaries offer relief amid devastating famine as a means of establishing contact with the people. Missionary Doctor Walter M. Moore from Ghana treats a man with eye infection.

LMCO Allocations for Niger: dependent on amount offering in excess of basic allocation

### Planting



Personal friendship and communications enable missionaries to gain a hearing for the gospel. In Upper Volta, Mrs. J. Bryant Durham talks with women.

LMCO allocations for Upper Volta \$9,800.

In Yemen, which had no Christian witness for centuries, a much-needed hospital helps to open the door for planting seeds. Missionary Doctor David C. Dorr works with a patient in the hospital at the ancient Jibla.

Teachers must be trained to help plant the Good News across a wider area. Missionary Jerald W. Perrill in Laos talks with the dean of students at Dog Dok Teachers' Training School. LMCO allocations for Laos \$25,000

## Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

December 1-8

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

National Goal \$23,000,000

### Cultivating



In Vietnam, years of struggle and planning are beginning to bear fruit. Mrs. Lewis I. Myers, Jr., (center) teaches the Bible to women at Hope Baptist Church in Danang. LMCO allocations for Vietnam \$194,666.

### Harvesting



Year of plowing, planting, and growing in Brazil are having their results. Evangelistic campaigns, such as this one in Recife, reap spectacular harvest—LMCO allocations for Equatorial, South, and North Brazil \$1,016,293



Preparation and distribution of literature help nurture the crop. In Costa Rica, Donald H. Redmon and a layman talk with a woman who has responded to the appeal of the Baptist bookmobile. LMCO allocations for Costa Rica \$71,280



Conversions and inquiries in Korea make the need for more missionaries crucial. Sunday School children in Taejon—age symbolic of the crowds that can be gathered to hear the gospel. LMCO allocations for Korea \$316,690

## Springridge Mission Forms Church At Clinton

The Springridge Mission south of Clinton was constituted a church on Nov. 17. The program was held in the temporary chapel under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. David T. Cranford.

Participating in the program were Mrs. Byron Cutrer, Rev. Tom Hudson, Dr. James Forch, Dr. Fred Tarpley, Dr. R. A. McLemore, Dr. C. Z. Holland, Rev. Joe Stovall, Dr. Bill Baker, Dr. Eugene Farr, Dr. David Grant and Rev. Charles Gentry. About 100 persons attended this historical service.

The newly constituted church, voted on a name for the new church on Nov. 24. Henceforth the congregation will be known as Wildwood Baptist Church.

Wildwood Church has purchased a mobile unit to expand its facilities. This new addition will serve as nursery accommodation and additional Sunday School rooms plus a church office.

## Revival Dates

Vance, Ocean Springs: Dec. 6-8; Stewardship revival to be led by Dr. Eugene R. Patterson, New Orleans Seminary; Larry Pittman, music; Frank Lescotte, pastor.

First Church, Foxworth: Dec. 5-8; Rev. James Fancher, Jackson, evangelist; Mrs. Mary Evelyn Hawkins, Gulf Breeze, Fla., soloist; Rev. S. R. Pridgen, singer and pastor.

Shiloh Memorial Church (Gulf Coast): Dec. 1-6; Sunday afternoon, dinner on the ground; Rev. Max Patterson, pastor, Goodyear Church, Picayune; music by the Bibletones on Sunday; Everyone invited; Rev. David Formby, pastor.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## EDITORIAL

### Are Baptists For Real?

The story was told by a representative of the SBC Foreign Mission Board at the Men's Missions Prayer Breakfast in Jackson, on November 30.

The speaker had been a missionary in one of the nations of East Africa, where Southern Baptist mission work was just beginning. The new missionaries were invited to be guests of the Governor of the nation, to confer with him about permission for the Baptist work.

After the greetings and welcome, the Governor began to talk to them about what they were planning to do, and asked the question, "Who are the Baptists?" The missionaries were happy to have opportunity to answer that question, and spent some time in telling of Baptists and their work. They also carefully explained the Southern Baptist program of missions, and why they had come to that land.

The Governor then startled them with a question, "Tell me, before I sign this permit allowing Southern Baptists to minister in this land, are Baptists for real, or are they synthetic?"

The speaker relating the story said that he was disturbed and somewhat irked by the question, for as he thought of the meaning of synthetic he remem-

bered the synthetic rubber tires which appeared during World War II, which looked so good, but which failed so quickly when put on the road. He wanted to sharply deny that there was anything synthetic about Baptists.

Before he could speak, however, a tall Texan, Wimpee Harper, another in the mission group, stood up and quietly replied,

"Your excellency, under God, Baptists are for real!"

Little did Wimpee Harper know that less than eighteen months later he would prove that statement by the sacrifice of his own life for his Christian witness in that land.

Those of us who heard that story will not soon forget the challenge of that question, "Are Baptists for real, or are they synthetic?"

Perhaps we need to ask if over and over.

Are Baptists for real in their profession of faith in Jesus Christ?

Are Baptists for real in their love for Christ?

Are Baptists for real in their Christian living?

Are Baptists for real in their devotion to the church and its work?

Are Baptists for real in their prayer life?

## Men And Missions

There long has been the feeling on the part of many that women lead the way in the support of missions in the Southern Baptist Convention. There is justification in this concept, since for many years, through the Woman's Missionary Union, the women have studied missions, taught missions, prayed for missions, and promoted the support of missions through their great weeks of prayer, special offerings, and other mission activities. In many cases it probably is true that some churches would have done little or nothing for missions had it not been for the ladies. And they still lead the way in the promotion of the special offerings and weeks of prayer, as they are doing right now, in the Christmas time emphasis on Foreign Missions.

At the same time, however, it would be unfair to say that men have not had an interest in and a part in the mission programs of the churches. It has been men as deacons and church members, who have shared in setting and supporting church budgets which included large percentages for missions. Moreover, it largely has been from the pocketbooks of the men that have come the funds for the great mission offerings, as they joined their wives in this special mission support. Men have served on the boards which have set the worldwide mission programs of the denomination, and have responded generously when their pastors and other leaders, called for increased mission support.

Men have studied and supported the mission work through the emphasis of the Brotherhood, and have joined in such special groups organized among Baptist men as Agricultural Missions Foundation. Another example is the broad support which has been given to Mississippi participation in

Baptist mission work in Montana. Many Baptist men of this state have joined on witnessing and working tours to Montana, and hundreds, and perhaps thousands, have shared in the special offerings for work in that state.

God has called some of the finest young men, as well as young women from our churches to go to the mission fields, and whether as pastors, as lay leaders, or as professional men such as doctors or dentists, more and more men have answered God's call to go to some foreign field.

It is not that men do have a vital interest in missions when they know of God's will for them in it, are challenged by the work that is being done, and are shown the needs. That this is true in Mississippi in a very real way was evidenced by the Men's Foreign Mission Prayer Breakfast which was held in Jackson on Saturday morning, Nov. 30. Over 500 men from across the state came together for the occasion, and it was a time of inspiration, of missionary concern and of great challenge. Had there been room for them, we are sure that hundreds of other men would have come for this meeting.

Women still are leading the way in missions in our churches, and we rejoice that they do. We believe, however, that the time has come when the men will not be far behind. A new day of men's concern for and participation in missions has arrived. Never has there been an hour when God was opening more doors, and calling for their best from both the women and the men than right now. It seems to foretell a new advance in world mission support in the denomination.

Are Baptists for real in their concern for a lost world?

Are Baptists for real in their missionary zeal?

The question can be asked in many different ways, but always the disturbing factor is there. "Are we for real, or is it synthetic?" Perhaps all of us need to step aside, where we can be alone with our Lord, and answer the question.

And if we can't answer it right, we need to stay there with the Lord until we can.

## Landrum P. Leavell II

Mississippians will rejoice in the coming of Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II to be the new president of New Orleans Seminary. This comes both because of the important influence that New Orleans Seminary has in Mississippi Baptist life, and because they know Dr. Landrum Leavell so well.

New Orleans long has had a mighty place in Mississippi Baptist life. From the days when it was established as Baptist Bible Institute, the institution has trained a large percentage of Mississippi Baptist pastors and church and denominational leaders. Its proximity to the state makes it easy for Mississippians to attend the school, and many of the students find pastorates and other ministries in the State. All of this makes the school of vital importance to Mississippians, and they rejoice when they believe that the Lord is providing His leadership for it.

Mississippi also has had a key part in the leadership of the institution. The last three presidents, Leavell, Eddleman and Cothen, all have been from this state, and while the new president is not a native, having been born in Tennessee, while his father was pastor there, his family background and much of his ministry has been in Mississippi. It is because of this that we can rejoice in the continual relationship of Mississippi to the seminary.

Landrum P. Leavell II is leaving the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, one of the stronger churches of the entire Southern Baptist Convention. Prior to going there he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, and before that at Charleston, Crosby, and in Pike County, in this state.

He is a man of thorough training, broad pastoral experience, and long participation in denominational life. He has become well known as a Bible preacher and as an able writer.

Dr. Leavell is from the Mississippi Leavell family, so widely known and used in Southern Baptist life. His uncle, Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, was president of the New Orleans institution at the time it moved to its new campus.

Also known for his strong conservatism, and his deep dedication to the Lord, to the Bible, and to Southern Baptist work, Dr. Leavell will bring able leadership to New Orleans Seminary. Mississippi Baptists join Baptists across the convention in the conviction that God has brought him to this place of leadership at this time.

## On The MORAL SCENE...

**CRACKDOWN ON TV PROGRAMMING?** — "The networks, seemingly determined of late to test the limits of violence and sexuality in prime-time entertainment, appear to be inviting a crackdown by Federal watchdogs. Citing such examples as a recent NBC movie, 'Born Innocent,' aired in early evening, in which a 14-year-old girl is sexually violated, FCC officials say 'hundreds' of complaints from offended viewers have triggered a staff inquiry into possible curbs. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Richard Wiley is so disturbed by it all that he is contemplating a head-knocking session with network brass. In a speech before Illinois broadcasters this month, the FCC boss urged the TV industry to 'soft-pedal the sex-and-violence excesses before Congress forces the FCC to move in. An FCC aide told TV Guide: 'We're brainstorming possible actions.'" TV Guide, October 26 - November 1, 1974.

**CRIME: A PROFITABLE BUSINESS?** — "Most profitable business in the U. S. isn't listed on any stock exchange. It's crime. Economic Unit of U. S. News and World Report estimates that crime costs the nation about \$3 billion dollars a year. That's equal to almost 6 per cent of the entire country's output of goods and services. Organized crime alone clears more than \$7 billions a year from gambling, narcotics, hijacking, loan-sharking and other illegal enterprises. Crimes against business and property—embezzlement, swindles, forgeries and others—take another 15 billions. Fighting crime costs 20 billions more."

U. S. News & World Report, Nov. 11, 1974.



## Helping and Hindering Hands

### THE BAPTIST FORUM

#### Remembers Sharing In Baptist Home Annual "Offering"

Dear Editor:

Today I read in the Baptist Record the letter from the Baptist Home asking for help, and my thoughts turned back to the "olden days" when I was a child in Blue Mountain, Mississippi.

We were a poor (moneywise) family, and we never had money to give in response to this plea. If I remember correctly, on a certain date a train crew would designate a boxcar for the Baptist Home. The train would make stops at each station, and people like us would load on nuts, potatoes, popcorn, and whatever we had to share.

My Dad and Mother must have had a hard time feeding all of us children (nine in all), but it seems that what we had was better when we knew that we had shared with these children.

What fun we had as we selected the nicest ears of popcorn, the reddest apples, the smoothest potatoes, and choice hickory nuts, pecans, and peanuts to fill sacks and take to the station to send on their way.

Even now I remember the warm, happy feeling I had as we shared what we had with children who had no parents like ours to care for them.

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Mary Ruth (Smith) Brew  
2109 Thistlewood Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37216

#### I'm Tired Of "Smut And Filth"

I'm tired of it!  
I'm tired of all the smut and filth that T. V. producers are dumping into my living room!

I'm tired of a few people — producers and actors — taking it upon themselves to destroy the decency that has made America great. Simply because they have no morals doesn't mean the rest of us don't!

I'm tired of the four letter words — sometimes as many as a dozen or two in one hour-long T.V. program! Their dirty mouths embarrass me in my own home!

I'm tired of the bed-hopping — the fornicating that is implicit and all but filmed on their dirty programs!

I'm tired of their implying that all of America's men and women "live" together and that marriage is "old hat."

I'm tired of the blood and violence. Everything aired now has to have violence in it — guns, blood, rape, sadistic scenes — long ago my nausea reached saturation!

I'm tired of their crafty maneuvering with the liquor industry to show that drinking is the "in" thing, by constantly shooting scenes where everybody drinks!

I'm tired of their filthy profanity and especially their taking of the Lord's name in vain!

I'm tired of the sex scenes — the unmade bed and the mussed covers, the underclothes draped boldly across the floor toward the bed!

I'm tired of their sorry commercials that sell everything from mattresses to automobiles by using sex!

I'm tired of a few unregenerated, immoral, unprincipled people who make these pictures, act in them, and the companies which sponsor them, dictating the morals of several million Americans!

As for one concerned, Christian Mississippian, I'm tired of it!

But, what to do? Write! Write the companies that sponsor them and tell them that you are tired of it! Write the major networks and tell them that you are tired of it! Write your legislators — local and national — and tell them you're tired of it!

When enough of us get tired enough of it,



#### A Woman's World Reaches Far Beyond the Ironing Board

Wilda Fancher

There's nearly always something jolting about a box of formal white envelopes. No matter how long you've known they were coming or how long the plans have been going on, there's something so concrete and so definite when you open the box, and there lay beautiful white envelopes.

Last night (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) we saw them. Wrapped in another box were the invitations that will go to the families, "... request the honor of your presence at the marriage ... December 31 ... at the home of the groom's parents. ..."

Underneath them were little card "Rev. and Mrs. James Fancher invite you to the wedding dinner following the ceremony. ... accompanied by little RSVP cards and envelopes. ..."

Still another box held the announcements which will be to relatives and friends after the ceremony.

As we folded items and placed them in envelopes, I looked over at Nan, the bride, and said, "Bobby must have forgotten that we said we'd pay each of our boys \$500 to elope."

She sparkled a grin and said, "No, we didn't forget."

I grinned back and didn't say anything, but I thought how glad I was that all this excitement is going on and that she and Bobby are in school close enough for us to be in on it.

Then I began to think some of those things that mothers think about when a child is to be married. At least, I guess other mothers think them — this is my first experience. It was a sort of running review spanning the years from the day we first knew for sure we would be parents. I thought about all the big events Bobby had prepared for and his performances in each of the ones that came to my mind. Then it ran through my mind that being a good, life-long husband is quite a performance to prepare for, and carry off.

I thought how I should write a book called LETTERS TO BOBBY, FRANK, AND JIM about how to treat a wife. After all, Charlie Shedd's never been a wife.

With a man, a lie is a last resort; with a woman, it's first aid.

Habits are like a soft bed, easy to get into but hard to get out of.

Many names in the social register got there by way of the cash register.

Hash isn't made; it accumulates.

If you drink to other people's health too often, you'll ruin your own.

The dangerous age is any time between one and ninety-one.

We'll get the airwaves that belong to us cleaned up!

J. B. Fowler, Jr., Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
McComb, Mississippi

## The Baptist Record

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# Gulfport's Preaching Policeman Feels Touch Of "The Mighty Hand Of God"

**NOTE:** The following is the personal testimony of Ronny Hurlbert, Gulfport's "Preaching Policeman." Mr. Hurlbert says, "We welcome bookings to preach in 1975. Should anyone desire our services, please contact the Ronny L. Hurlbert Evangelistic Association, 1403 Pass Road, Gulfport, Ms. 39501 (phone 863-2110). My home address is 218-43rd St., Gulfport (phone 863-2249)."

By Ronny L. Hurlbert, Gulfport  
"The Preaching Policeman"

I came into this world August 8, 1934 in Handsboro, Miss. I married Virginia E. Long on May 10, 1952. We were both age seventeen. We are the parents of four children — three girls, and one son.

Until February 1967, I was an appliance salesman. On that date, I joined the police force in Gulfport. This was a profession I never dreamed I would enter. It was also a step backwards for me at that time. I had a drinking problem and being a policeman, most bars gave me free drinks when I was off duty — I took advantage of the free drinks, not knowing or caring that most of these bar operators would want me to turn my back to certain operations they had!

Not only did this add to my drinking problem, it also increased the arguments with my wife!

Then, to add to all these problems — election time came, and I began to see dirty politics in full swing, from the inside out! I was caught up in the middle of a political battle! I didn't want anyone of this rat — race, so I quit the police force, and went back to selling appliances. When I left the Police force, I said I would never go back into that line of work again, because of dirty politics!

I was very successful in the appliance sales field — I had to be — I had an expensive habit — DRINKING! The increase in salary made up for the free drinks I no longer received. I could not drive from the job to my home without making a few of the bars every night. My wife would fuss at me for staying out late, and coming home drunk. To get her off my back, I started taking her to the bars with me. Now my children saw less of mom too. I began attending wild parties, and having wild parties at my home. Even in a crowd of people, I still had a void that nothing I tried could fill — sex, whiskey, wild parties — none of these things satisfied the longing inside of me!

One night after coming home from a party, my wife and I got into an argument — it was the worse we had ever had — I threatened to kill her. I had drunk a fifth of whiskey, and was in a frame of mind to do anything! My wife and children ran from the house for safety. It was nearly midnight on a cold December night.

This was the night my whole life was to change — Little did I know it then!

My wife ran to her brother's home, which was nearby, and put the children to bed there.

Now, it was deathly quiet in the house — there was not a sound — no laughter from happy children — no daughter listening to her radio, or a son watching T.V. — they had all run from the house for fear their dad was going to kill them and their mother!



ther! Oh, God! the very thought of my children even thinking I would harm them haunts me, even now!

In the dead quiet of the middle of that December night, in a drunken stupor, I began to evaluate my past personal life. I had created a living hell for myself, my wife, and my children! Oh, God! I thought! what have I done to my family? I never intended it to end this way! All I wanted was fun and enjoyment out of life! This is no fun, seeing my family frightened to death of me!

I stated that I was all alone — Looking back on that night, I now know that I definitely was not alone — there were two other powers in the house with me. The Holy Spirit, and my old master, Satan! I didn't know that night just who or what I was struggling with, but having gained knowledge in the Word of God, I know that I was caught between two supernatural powers. Satan, my old master for thirty — six years, did not want to let go of me.

Now I was hearing another voice — this one was telling me that my sin was why my family had no respect for me. My sin was the cause of all my problems!

I wanted out — I wanted to die — I was going to kill myself — I would leave a suicide note telling my family I knew what a sorry father and husband I was, and it would be better for them if I ended it all!

Yes, I was hearing two voices — I wrote the note, picked up a Smith and Wesson .38 cal. revolver, and placed it to my head — Then the other voice spoke: "Ronny, you are going straight to hell the moment you pull that trigger!" I had never thought of this place called hell before. I didn't want to go to that eternal place of torment! Now I was really in a living hell! I couldn't live, and I couldn't die! I had to come to the end of the road — there was no place to go — I wanted out, and there

was no out — This began the longest night I can ever remember! a battle that lasted six hours. I asked myself why couldn't I die? Then, something within told me it was because of my sin — sin that was unpardoned, and unforgotten to God! I sat still, confused and in a turmoil that is unexplainable! I really wanted an answer — I didn't want to live the kind of life I had been living, and I didn't want to die, because of the eternal hell — what was I going to do?

I did not know Psalms 46:10a that night, which says: "Be still and know that I am God!" I had finally come to the end of the road and was in such a mess that there was nothing Ronny could do! Everything I had tried had failed. Then I heard more clearly that voice I had never listened to before. It seemed to say, "Ronny, you have never given me a chance! You have tried everything in the book in your search for peace and happiness, and none of those things you tried worked. You haven't given me the first chance in your life, and you will never know what I have to offer until you surrender yourself to me completely!" That was the Holy Spirit speaking to my sin — hardened heart. He was right. I had never given God a moment of my life. You can't tell what the pie will taste like until you bite into it!

It was breaking daylight the next morning when I realized that God was the only way out for me. He was the only one who could pardon my sin! Then, with tears flowing freely, I got down on my knees and begged God to have mercy on me, a sinner! I asked God to give me peace to live with myself and my family. I asked God to help me to get my family back together and make a brand new start in life!

I went to church that Sunday. Everything that preacher talked about hit me. Then he began to tell us about Jesus Christ, and how He died in my place on Calvary's cross for my sin! Well, the night before I had asked God to forgive my sin and have mercy on my soul, but I didn't know that HIS SON died for my sins! Now God was telling me to get up and go down that aisle and take the preacher by the hand and tell him I was lost and that I wanted to receive Jesus as my personal Saviour!

Well, I did accept Jesus as my Saviour. Six months later God called me to preach. This is another long story, because I ran from the call to preach at first, but later I surrendered and was licensed to preach

at Calvary Church, Gulfport, on June 9, 1971. I made my profession of faith in Christ on December 13, 1970. In August of 1972 I was called to pastor a small Baptist church and was ordained on August 27, 1972.

Meanwhile, right after I surrendered to preach in 1971, God called me to leave the appliance sales, and return to the police department. Well, I didn't want to go back to the police force, and I told God so! I was making good money in my sales — besides the men on the force will make fun of me, a thirty — six year old man who knew nothing about the Bible, and who had a family and couldn't go back to school to study the Bible — yes, they would most certainly laugh at me, when I came back and told them God called me back to the police force and that God had also called me to PREACH! Surely they would say, "Ronny has finally cracked up!"

No, I wasn't going back — besides I remembered how dirty politics could be and I didn't want any more of that! Besides the pay was only \$100 per week. I made more than that selling appliances! That is, I made more until I refused to leave the sales job and return to the force. It seemed that all of a sudden no matter how hard I tried to sell the merchandise, something went wrong with it — T. V. sets went bad in the customers' homes and would be returned to the store, and deducted from my commission. Washing machines would break down and be returned. I would sell a refrigerator and the warehouse would mark it out and the customer would get mad and cancel the order! No matter how hard I tried, everything went wrong! I got to the point where I was only making a hundred dollars a week. Besides that, I had to buy my own suits, pay for the cleaning, and drive twenty — four miles a day to my job! It was costing me more to work there now than it was worth!

Then I began to get God's message very clearly. He wanted me back on the police force. So, I returned to the force and the midnight shift as a patrolman. Shortly after my return, I led two officers to Christ. Now I know why God wanted my return. The force — to be a witness for Christ there, and for future plans that God had in-store for me. I remained in patrol until 1973, and continued to pastor a small church. I carried all the regular police equipment, and I became known as "The Preaching Policeman."

In 1973 politics changed and a chaplain division was established on our Police Department in Gulfport and I was transferred to this new section as a chaplain. Now, I no longer wear a gun.

Just before I was placed in the chaplain section, something great happened to me one night while I was still on midnight patrol. This night as I drove my patrol car and checked the buildings in my beat. God began to speak to my heart. I remember the exact place and street I was on when it happened. All of a sudden God revealed to me that He wanted me to get on the road and preach as an evangelist! God wanted me to preach to law enforcement officers around the world.

I didn't understand this call at first. Why did God want someone like me to travel and preach? Well, after the call from the appliance store. I had learned one thing — don't fight God — you will lose! So, with tears flowing down my face, at 2 a.m. in a squad car all alone, I again surrendered to God and told Him I'd do whatever He wanted me to, but I told Him I didn't know where to start — He would have to open the doors! For the next hour that night God began to reveal steps to me that I should take in this new calling.

I had been serving God long enough to know that we are not to take the last stitch first — you don't sew a quilt that way. You can't tell what the quilt will look like until you

have completely sewn it together. You sew that quilt a stitch at a time, and you don't take the next stitch until you've finished the last one! That is the way it is in God's service — take each step as He gives it to you; then when you are finished you can see the mighty hand of God in each step.

Since that night, God has done exactly what He promised me he'd do. He showed me how to organize the Ronny L. Hurlbert Evangelistic Association and be incorporated and chartered by the State of Mississippi. I preached my first Crusade for Christ at Milner Stadium in Gulfport, June 24 through June 28, 1974. We had many decisions for Christ that week, and already, God is opening other doors for me in this field of evangelism. I preached in a crusade in Kentucky in October. I preached to over 500 law enforcement officers in Alabama in July.

We still maintain our office at 1403 Pass Road, Gulfport. I have adopted the title: "THE PREACHING POLICEMAN" since almost everyone calls me that locally. Since I have been back on the police force as a man of God, I have preached to murderers, thieves, robbers, prostitutes, burglars, juvenile delinquents and dope addicts. I have led some of all types of people to Christ in this unique ministry.

I asked the question earlier, "Why would God call a man like me INTO THIS TYPE MINISTRY?" Remember the story of the quilt? Now I can see the complete quilt! Who has a better opportunity to witness to the type of sinners (or criminals) that I have just mentioned, than a police officer? But first, many of these policemen are lost and need Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour! So I can very clearly see why God would want me to start a ministry that would lead policemen to Christ. Then, at the same time, I am still able to reach other individuals. Because of my police background I know what the greatest problems are today, and I know that the only answer to sin problems in Jesus Christ!

**LOME, Togo** — The Eglise Baptiste de la Cocotale (Coconut Grove Baptist Church) recently recorded 41 decisions for Christ during their week-long evangelistic crusade. Roger Bertrand, pastor of the Baptist church in Tours, France, was evangelist.

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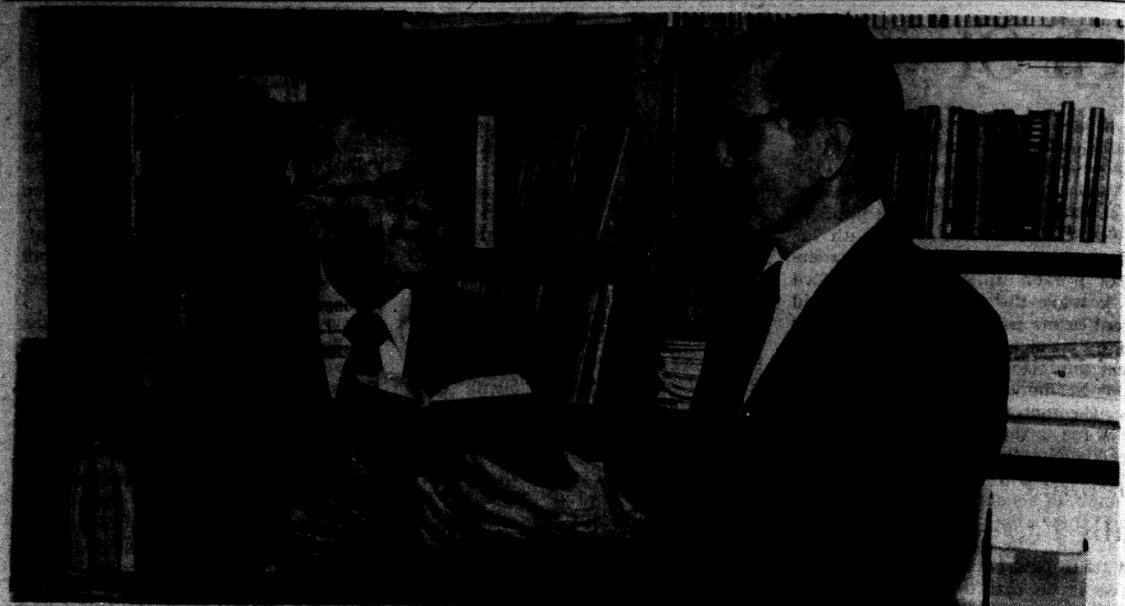
**Plaques Awarded At Christian Action Meeting**  
Three plaques were awarded by the Christian Action Commission at its recent tenth anniversary dinner meeting held at the Baptist Building. Several guests were present to hear the speaker, Dr. Harry Hollis, Jr., of the Christian Life Commission Nashville. In top photo, plaques were awarded to Rev. Bill Nimmons, Tupelo, (left) and Dr. Fuller B. Saunders, Houston, commission members who were rotated off the commission this year, on behalf of their service to the group. In center is Dr. J. Clark Hensley, executive director. In lower picture Rev. Joe Abrams, who will retire Dec. 31 as associate editor of the Baptist Record, (center) was awarded a plaque "for service beyond the call of duty" by Rev. Bill Duncan, Picaune, commission chairman, with Dr. Hensley at right.

## Sunday School Report

High Twenty-Five Churches  
CATEGORY 63, NEW CHURCH STUDY COURSE  
OCTOBER 1, 1973-SEPTEMBER 30, 1974

No.	Church	Pastor	City	Credits
1.	First, Laurel	Rev. Jim Keith, Laurel	Laurel	256
2.	Calvary, Waynesboro	Rev. R. A. Sanderson, Waynesboro	Waynesboro	252
3.	Byram (Hinds-Madison)	Rev. Henry Bennett, Jackson	Jackson	233
4.	First, Philadelphia	Rev. Ray Grissett, Philadelphia	Philadelphia	175
5.	Macedonia (Lincoln)	Rev. E. Tedder, Brookhaven	Brookhaven	112
6.	First, Grenada	Dr. John Lee Taylor, Grenada	Grenada	101
7.	Van Winkle, Jackson	Rev. Herman Milner, Jackson	Jackson	101
8.	Parkway, Kosciusko	Rev. Billy Williams, Kosciusko	Kosciusko	96
9.	Alta Woods, Jackson	Dr. Charles Myers, Jackson	Jackson	86
10.	Calvary, Tupelo	Dr. Bob Ramsay, Tupelo	Tupelo	83
11.	First, Vicksburg	Dr. John McCall, Vicksburg	Vicksburg	82
12.	Calvary, Jackson	Dr. Joe Tuten, Jackson	Jackson	77
13.	Woodville Hgts., Jackson	Rev. Carl Savell, Jackson	Jackson	77
14.	Wade (Jackson)	Rev. J. Ford Parker, Pascagoula	Pascagoula	72
15.	Trinity (Leake)	Rev. Percy Cooper, Carthage	Carthage	72
16.	Dixie (Lebanon)	Hattiesburg	Hattiesburg	71
17.	Southside, Jackson	Jackson	Jackson	71
18.	Poplar Springs (Simpson)	Rev. Ed Perrett, Mendenhall	Mendenhall	68
19.	Main Street, Hattiesburg	Dr. John Barnes, Hattiesburg	Hattiesburg	67
20.	Springfield (Scott)	Rev. Ron Mercer, Morton	Morton	65
21.	First, Biloxi	Rev. Frank Gunn, Biloxi	Biloxi	65
22.	First, Hazlehurst	Rev. Geo. Meadows, Hazlehurst	Hazlehurst	58
23.	Robinson Street, Jackson	Rev. John McDonald, Jackson	Jackson	56
24.	Park Hill, Jackson	Rev. Joe Stovall, Jackson	Jackson	56
25.	First, Tupelo	Rev. Bill Nimmons, Tupelo	Tupelo	56





### First, Grenada Emphasizes Outreach

Shown above is Dr. A. V. Washburn, Secretary Sunday School Department, Sunday School Board, and Alton Yarrrough, minister of education, First Church, Grenada. They are seen checking references in Dr. Washburn's book "Outreach For the pastor." Dr. John Lee Taylor, the occasion was a Sunday School Leadership Advance, planned by Mr. Yarrrough, featuring a return to the principles of outreach, and growth presented in Dr. Washburn's book. Last year's Sunday School enrollment gain was 124, with an average per Sunday attendance gain of 51. Dr. Washburn spoke to the workers November 20, on the subject, "Keep on Growing Through Outreach." This the Sunday School theme for 1974-75 at First, Grenada.

Dr. Robert L. Hamblin, pastor of Harrisburg, Tupelo, is author of an article in the fall issue of the Southwestern Journal of Theology, titled "Miracles in Acts."



James Kenneth Parker, left, and John Harlon Cockrell, right, were licensed to the gospel ministry Sunday night, October 20, by Trinity Church, Carthage. They are both in school at Clarke College. "Churches needing a supply would be blessed to hear these young men proclaim God's message," states Rev. Percy M. Cooper, pastor.

## Names In The News

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry A. Rankin, missionaries to Indonesia, may be addressed at J1, Yos Sudarso 1v-27, Jember, Indonesia. A Mississippian, Rankin was born in Tupelo and grew up in Clinton. Mrs. Rankin, the former Bobby Simmons, was born in Mobile, Ala., and grew up in Lincoln County, Miss.

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Kelton Jr., missionaries to Vietnam, may be addressed at Box 31, Camranh, Vietnam. Both are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Lambert and grew up in Tutwiler. She is the former Paulette Wolf of Clarksdale.

Julia Ann Brown has been elected secretary of the freshman class at the University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson. One of five Carey College pre-med graduates of last year, four of whom have already been accepted for medical schools, Miss Brown is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Brown of Oak Grove. Miss Brown's mother is Mrs. Ilse Brown, assistant professor of French and German at William Carey College.

Beverly Sutton will become national Acteens consultant for Woman's Missionary Union. Miss Sutton, presently youth director at First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, will do promotional work for the 140,000-member missions organization for teenage girls. She will take office at the Birmingham office of WMU on January 2. Miss Sutton is a native of Texas.

Rev. James T. Dunnam, a native Mississippian, pastor of the First Church, Cocoa, Florida, was elected President last week of the Pastor's Conference of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The group met in its annual session in the new Civic Center, Lakeland, Florida, with a record registration of over 3,000. Dunnam is the son of Mrs. Eva K. Dunnam, Route 2, Leakeville, and the late W. M. Dunnam. He is a graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College and the New Orleans Seminary.

First Church, Pontotoc, recently licensed Tommy Mitchell to the gospel ministry. Tommy, son of Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Mitchell of Pontotoc, is a student at Pontotoc High School and is a member of First Church, Dr. W. Levon Moore, pastor.



William Carey College Junior, Damon Goff, placed 2nd in the Concerto Division of the recent Mississippi Music Teachers Association contest. The annual event was held on the Belhaven College campus in Jackson, November 8-9. Damon is the son of Rev. and Mrs. E. L. Goff of Hattiesburg.

Rudy Robbins and Julian Robertson were recently ordained as Deacons by the Bunker Hill Church, Columbia. They were presented Bibles and copies of "The Baptist Deacon." Their wives were presented copies of "One Being a Deacon's Wife." Rev. David Perry is the pastor.

Bobby Douglas has resigned Southland Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., effective November 16th. He will become pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Scottsdale, Arizona. Douglas, a native of Bruce, attended Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

In the nine and a half years that he pastored at Southland, there were 1,915 additions to the church. More than \$200,000 was given to Missions. Present membership at Southland is over 1,700 up from 450 in 1965.

David Jack West, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted West of Florence was licensed to the gospel ministry by the Mountain Creek Baptist Church, Florence. Jack is a senior at Mississippi State and has been very active in the BSU. Last Summer he served as a summer missionary in the state of Montana. The people and pastor of Mt. Creek feel very honored to be able to recommend this young man to our sister churches. He has dedicated his life to the service of the master and we pray that others will answer the call of God as Jack has. His pastor is Rev. Cliff Shipp.

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### Buice To Operate

#### "The Cup" In Atlanta

Jack P. Buice, native Georgian who has been in music evangelism for several years in expanding his ministry.

He will also enter the preaching ministry, combining this with music evangelism.



He will also head an evangelistic organization which will build and operate "The Cup," a Christian entertainment spot in Underground Atlanta. "The Cup" will offer gospel singing, a tract ministry and counseling.

Mr. Buice is a native of Atlanta, a graduate of Furman University and New Orleans seminary.

He has been minister of music in churches in Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana. His last three churches were First in Oxford, Miss., Travis Avenue in Fort Worth and First in New Orleans.

Since 1965, he has been doing music evangelism, interim music ministries and working in the construction business.

Mr. Buice and his family are members of the Rehoboth church in Tucker. Mrs. Buice was Ann Hobbs, a Tift College graduate. The Buices have three children.



Vance E. (Vann) Windom, Jr., above right, was licensed to the gospel ministry by Bethel Church, Hazlehurst, on October 14. Vann is a senior at Union Academy, Georgetown. He is an honor student, and lettered in football. As a senior, he presently serves as President of the Student Body. He is featured in the Eighth Annual Edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students. Vann is active in church affairs, serving as president of the Youth Choir, President of the Young People's Church Training class, and assistant Sunday School director. Also he is among those in charge of prayer services while the pastor is away at New Orleans Seminary. He plans are to attend Copiah-Lincoln Junior College in 1975, and then to attend Mississippi College. He is available for supply preaching, and may be reached at (601) 894-1894, or by calling his pastor, Rev. Doug Warren, (pictured at left) at (601) 894-4303, or (504) 282-2247.

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## Kosciusko First Welcomes New Associate Pastor

The Reverend Pete Freeman has begun his duties as associate pastor and minister of education at the First Church of Kosciusko. He moved to Kosciusko from Lufkin, Texas, where he had served as pastor of the Redland Baptist Church for the past two and one-half years. He brings to his new position 14 years of experience as a staff member or pastor. Mr. Freeman is a native of Houston, Texas, where he graduated from the Pasadena High School. He has a B.S. degree from East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, Texas, and lacks a few hours completing his M.Div. degree at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Freeman is married to the former Gloria Burton of Henderson, Texas. They have three children: Stephanie, age 8; Melanie, age 6; and Lance, age 4.

## Everett Church Calls Earl Brown

Rev. Earl E. Brown has been called as pastor of Everett Church in Simpson Association.

He has attended Clarke College, Newton; Hinds Junior College, Raymond; and Holmes Junior College, Goodman. He has also had seminary extension work at Mississippi College.

Rev. Brown has held pastorates in Holmes, Attala, Leake, Jeff Davis, and Madison Counties. He assumed his duties as pastor of Everett Church on Dec. 1.



# Preparing The Way For The Messiah

Malachi 3:1-4; Matthew 3:1-12;  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

By William J. Falls

When Cyrus the Persian emperor allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, they continued under Persian rule for two hundred years. After the Greeks toppled the Persian ruler, they controlled the Mediterranean world for another two centuries. Between 141 and 63 B. C. the Maccabean revolt gave the Jews their own government. But then the Romans took over. Except for the Maccabean interlude, the Jewish nation had not been free for more than five centuries. But as a people they had survived by the conviction that the Lord (Yahweh) had chosen and delivered them. Their sacred writings told that story and stated the Lord's requirements, and they strove to live by those laws even at the risk of death. They hoped God would send a deliverer, but for the present they believed he required rigid obedience to hundreds of rulers. Their persecutions and sense of destiny had led to exclusivism. This was part of the context of today's passage from Matthew.

## The Lesson Explained Verses 1-4

In Luke's Gospel we have an introduction to John, but Matthew assumes his readers already know about the Baptist. Because of what happens in verse 13, "in those days" must mean just before Jesus was baptized. John was called the Baptist, not because he originated baptism; Jews had baptized proselytes (converts to Juda-

ism) for some time. But John baptized Jews, and that made him different. He was unusual also in appearance and daily fare. His garment was woven from camel's hair and was bound close to his body by a simple leather belt. In Leviticus 11:22 the Hebrews were told what kinds of locusts they could eat. Today various peoples of the Near East eat locusts. John was a man of the wilderness. No wonder he fascinated the city folk.

His message was simple and unadorned: "Turn away from your sins because the reign of God is ready to begin." Everything about John reminded Matthew of the statement in Isaiah 40:3, which calls for clearing the path of the people of the Lord as they returned from captivity in Babylon. When Matthew wrote his Gospel, years after Christ's resurrection, he was sure that verse had taken on a new and larger meaning. Preaching repentance would help people accept forgiveness. John was the Forerunner of the Master.

Although the people did not know that then, they flocked out of Jerusalem and the whole countryside to see and hear the blunt, Elijah-like preacher in the wilderness. Of course, verse 5 does not mean that everybody went down to the Jordan to confess their sins and be baptized. Luke 3:10-14 describes in more detail the questions of the people and John's answers. Denouncing Self-Righteousness Verses 7-10

John's boldness is nowhere better illustrated than in his denunciation of the Pharisees and Sadducees who had come to see the baptizing. We cannot be sure how he recognized them, but it may have been a combination of dress, phylacteries, and perhaps

facial expression. Although they differed among themselves in theology and politics, John knew they were alike in their pride and self-righteousness. Addressing such leaders as "you sons of snakes" does not sound like John was trying to improve the "tone" of his congregation with prominent converts. John said if they wanted to be baptized, they would have to prove their repentance by changed lives. No longer could they think they were acceptable before God merely because they had been born Jews. John punctured their pride of ancestry when he declared that God could use the loose stones on the ground to increase Abraham's line.

Then John used a figure of judgment — the axe and the tree — to underscore God's expectation of men. A tree that does not bear good fruit may give shade and be pleasant to look at, but it is not fulfilling its purpose. It is taking up space and nourishment from the soil that only a fruitful tree deserves. And the fruit here is a person's manner and ministry that reveals a penitent and humble spirit before God and man. It was the expected result of the new life within.

## Pointing To One Who Is Greater Verses 11-12

John's water baptism was a public symbol of an inner repentance, and its memory might help the forgiven one to maintain a penitent attitude. The people were impressed with his preaching, but the one who was coming later was much greater. John did not feel worthy of even carrying his sandals. That one would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and with fire; they would be motivated and empowered by God's Spirit and would be

cleansed of sin as by fire. This was not a special gift of the Spirit but the power which Christ would give for the new convert to live a new life.

Another figure of judgment appears in verse 12. As the farmer with his winnowing fork tosses into the air the stalks of ripe grain to separate chaff and kernel, so the Coming One would reveal the difference between good and evil men. Each would have his reward. John had preached judgment, but he saw an awful finality in the judgment yet to come.

## Ingomar Church Calls Pastor

W. Frank Lay recently resigned as associate pastor of State Boulevard Church, Meridian, to serve as pastor of Ingomar Church, New Albany.

Mr. Lay is married to the former Margaret Carraway of Prentiss. They are both graduates of William Carey College. He received the Master of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1969. They have a son, David, three.

In addition to his work at State Boulevard, Lay served as pastor of Southside, Lucedale; Oak Grove near Prentiss; and East Philadelphia (Neshoba).

The Lays were welcomed to Ingomar with the presentation of a fifteen-cubic-foot freezer filled with food.

## B. D. Exchange Date Extended At N. O.

NEW ORLEANS — The cut-off date for alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to exchange their bachelor of divinity (B.D.) degrees for master of divinity (M.Div.) degrees has been extended to July 31, 1975.

The announcement was made by academic dean J. Hardee Kennedy and the executive committee of the board of trustees.

**By Arnold Carl Westphal**

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## The Reality Of The Word

Jesus Christ came into this world, lived in it, taught in it, and eventually died in it, but the reality of it all was that the world never appreciated Him.

"He came into His own, and his own received him not," (1:11). This is commonly understood to mean the people of His day, Israel, the Jewish people; but it need not be limited to them. "He made the world, it was His. He made man, man was His own." He came to the very thing He made and they received him not.

The reality of life is that the blind eyes, and the unhearing ear is still here. Every man is prepared for Christ's coming, but so few accept Him as the Christ their giver of life and light. Not all will accept the Word.

## Reason For The Word

Not everyone rejected Jesus when he came. There were some who did welcome Him and received Him. A person is not naturally born a son or child of God. The way one becomes a child of God is by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord of one's life. What God offers, man has to appropriate.

The term "believe on His name." To trust in the name of Jesus therefore means to put our trust in what Jesus is. To believe in the name of Jesus is to believe that God is like Jesus; and it is only when we believe that, that we can submit ourselves to God and become His children.

How do you explain the coming of Jesus Christ to earth except by looking at the reason for His coming? Jesus came to this earth to show us what the creating word, this controlling reason is like. If one would want to know what God is like, look at Jesus Christ. God became a human person and showed us how we should live in our surroundings. It may be that we often forget that Jesus was fully God and was fully man. "Of His fullness we all have drawn." He meant that in Jesus Christ there dwelt the totality of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. A man can go to Jesus with any need and find that need supplied. To see Jesus is to see God.

The reason that Jesus came was to show us the Father and to provide salvation so that men could become the sons of God. You cannot explain His coming in any other means.

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## What Am I?

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## Bible Study Preview

Dr. Clyde T. Francisco, the John R. Sampey professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Southern Seminary, leads a discussion in Acts as a preview for January Bible Study. This meeting, one of nine such previews, was at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, Judd Allen of the Sunday School Department was the team leader.

## Ireland's Thompson Plans

To Retire In August '75 BELFAST (BP) — Joshua Thompson, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Ireland, plans to retire from his post Aug. 31, 1975, a news release from the Union states. Thompson will complete 25 years in the Union administration by year-end 1974. He plans to return to pastoral work, the release noted.

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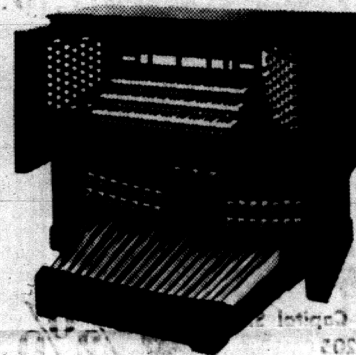
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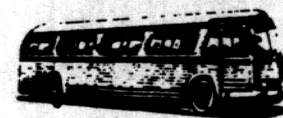
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# Light In A World Of Darkness

By Orvel E. Hecker, Pastor, First Church of Byron

As Christmas approaches we think about the coming of Christ. Why did He come? Surely we know the answer to that, but often we forget. Isaiah knew why Christ was coming. He wrote (Isaiah 9:2), "The people who walk in darkness shall see a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them shall the light shine."

When Christ came the light did shine. It shone as never before. John even wrote (John 1:9), "The light still shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never been able to put it out."

Jesus came to do many things; two seem to stand out. First, He came to teach us how to live. In the ancient world into which Jesus came people did not know how to live. They did not know what was right and what was wrong. They did not understand life. By His life Jesus showed others how to live. There was no spot or blemish in Him. 1 John 3:5 says, "In Him was no sin." II Corinthians 5:21 says, "He knew no sin." I Peter 2:22 says, "He did no sin," and Hebrews 4:15 says, "He was without sin." Jesus lived to show us how to live. He was a living light in a world of darkness.

A second thing Jesus did was to teach us how to die. The people of His day did not understand death. It frightened them and they feared and misunderstood it. Death to them was the end. They had no hope of the world to come. But Jesus changed all that. To Martha He said (John 11:25, 26), "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

Thinking about what Christ did the Apostle Paul wrote (II Timothy 1:10), "All this is now made clear by the appearing of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Jesus Himself said (John 8:12), "I am the light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Before Jesus came men did not know; what is worse—they could not know. This is no longer true. Today, we do know and we can know. Jesus came to show us how to live and how to die. He was a great light coming into a world of great darkness. As Christmas approaches we need to remember this.

## Blue Mountain Schedules Evening Classes

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss. — The Blue Mountain College evening classes for the Spring semester of the 1974-75 academic session are scheduled to begin Jan. 13, 14, and 15.

Evening classes will be held on the campus in Blue Mountain on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 until 9:30. Registration for the evening classes at Blue Mountain College will be held from 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 6 in Paschal Student Center. Provisions may also be made to register during the regular registration at the college on Jan. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Academic Dean William Washburn will furnish any information in detail if called or written. The phone number is 635-5711 - Ext. 36.

Courses to be offered in the evening classes are as follows: Old Testament, Mrs. Wilfred C. Tyler; Elementary Typewriting, Mrs. E. Harold Fisher; Advanced Typewriting, Mrs. Fisher; Methods and Materials for

Teaching the Child With Learning Disabilities, Mrs. Brooks Marr; Shakespeare, Mrs. Sadie Lee Wells; Western Civilization, Dr. Carey Hearn; Art For Elementary Grades, Charles Clark; Bible 202, New Testament, Robert Sugg; Elementary Accounting, Mrs. Geraldine Conner; Fundamentals of Music, Edward Ludlow; Private Instruction in Organ, Edward Ludlow; Piano, Robert Formosa; Voice, Mrs. W. L. Robertson; and Bible 305, Sermon Building and Delivery, Dr. James L. Travis.

Be yourself. God never made two people exactly alike. He has a particular plan for your life. He wants to do through you what He hasn't done through anyone else. But He can't force His will upon you. You may choose to grope and stumble, or you may choose to be guided and guarded by God. Which will it be?



## The Caudills Visit Clarke

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Caudill, former missionaries to Cuba, drew rapt attention from Clarke College students recently as they shared experiences that had been theirs during the months when Dr. Caudill was held prisoner by the Communists. Clarke has

enrolled two girls whose fathers were imprisoned, Rebecca Pich, now a student at Mississippi College, and Norma Rivera, a 1974-75 freshman at Clarke. Norma's father is still imprisoned. L to R — Mrs. Caudill, Norma Rivera, and Dr. Caudill.

## Blue Mountain Sets Up Credit Courses On TV

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss. — Beginning the week of Jan. 20 Blue Mountain College will offer college credit through ETV, Channel 12. The three courses which are being offered the second semester of the 1974-75 academic session are a one semester hour course in Consumer Education (The Consumer Experience), and a three semester hour course in Cultural Anthropology (Dimensions in Cultures).

The three hour courses contain 30-minute lessons and the one hour course has fifteen 30-minute lessons. There will be two lessons per week for the three-hour course and one lesson for the one hour course. The weeks of Jan. 6 and 13 will be preview weeks. The official broadcast schedule for the courses to start will be the week of Jan. 20. All of the series will be broadcast at 10 p.m. with a repeat on Saturday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Students may register for ETV classes on Jan. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Those who meet requirements may register for credit. High school seniors and students who do not meet entrance requirements may register for reserve credit—reserve credit will be validated when the student meets entrance requirements.



Rev. Tommy Anderson, left, presents certificate to Thad Beemon.

## Hopewell Celebrates Thad Beemon Day

Hopewell Church, Newton County, called October 13 Thad Beemon Day. The church presented to Mr. Beemon a certificate of recognition and a Bible for his faithful service as a deacon for 27 years. Mr. Beemon's family was present for the special service.

Saved in 1909 and baptized the second Sunday of May that year, Mr. Beemon was ordained a deacon at Hopewell in 1947.

His pastor, Rev. Tommy Anderson, says, "Thad Beemon is an unusual man. Anyone who came to the community and observed his life would have a hard time trying to decide if Mr. Beemon were the local pastor or not. He visits the sick, the unsaved, the unchurched, and anyone who needs him. He is 80, and never misses a Sunday or Wednesday service in Hopewell Church."

## State Pastor Ends Tour Of Latin America

DUNCAN, Miss. — Billy J. Beckett was physically exhausted, spiritually encouraged and yet emotionally depressed when he returned from his recent 49-day tour of agricultural missions in Latin America.

Beckett, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, wanted to see agricultural missions first-hand. He traveled by jet, small plane, automobile, boat and even by foot. He visited 14 different Southern Baptist missionaries and saw each one's work.

As a member of the Agricultural Missions Foundation, his primary objective was to view agricultural missions.

"Churches or Christians who have no evangelistic fervor or missionary vision serve no real purpose on this earth," Beckett said. "I know of the local missionary vision, but is that missionary vision translated into practice by those missionaries we support?"

Answering his own question, Beckett continued, "Based on the work of the missionaries that I visited, the answer is a hearty yes. I was spiritually encouraged. They (the missionaries) work tirelessly at the task to which the Lord has called them."

On the other end of the spectrum, Beckett was emotionally depressed. "Why be depressed in the light of such dedicated, qualified and energetic missionaries?" Beckett asked. "The people on the field are responsive to the gospel and missionaries are going full steam to get the gospel to every person possible, but their resources and numbers are too limited to do the job."

The answer, for Beckett, lies in prayer, financial support and "teaching and inspiring our youth to follow God."

"I, as one man, the pastor of a small rural church, saw the task and felt depression," Beckett said. "I can do so little. But God is capable of meeting the challenge. He has chosen to do that through the redeemed and He would have us work together."

## Calvary, Pascagoula To Present "King Is Coming" At Eastlawn

The choir of Calvary Church, Pascagoula, will present "The King Is Coming" at Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, Sunday night, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. Rev. W. A. Wimbs is pastor of Calvary Church.



## Rocky Creek Deacons—Three Generations

Rocky Creek Church is possibly the first church to have three generations of one family on the active deacon board. In top picture from left to right: Harley Havard (son and father); Gene Havard (son and grandson) and Lee Havard (father and grandfather). Bottom photo shows newly elected deacons who are the youngest on the deacon board. On the left is Gu McAdory and on the right is Gene Havard. In the center is Pastor S. A. Adkins. Rocky Creek is located at Rt. 4, Lucedale. Rev. S. A. Adkins is pastor and Don Boone is minister of music and youth.

## Homecoming For Bellevue

Bellevue Church in Lamar Association will observe its 22nd anniversary Dec. 8. The occasion will be marked by a homecoming observation by the church, and there will be morning and afternoon services. Lunch will be served.



## Mt. Pisgah Is Rebuilt After Fire

Mt. Pisgah (Tallahatchie), which was destroyed by fire last January, dedicated a new building on October 6. The church was rebuilt and furnished debt free, due to love offerings of friends in Tallahatchie and surrounding counties. Dr. Johnny Spencer, pastor, brought the dedicatory message. Other activities of the day included dinner on the grounds and special singing.

Students gathering for singsgiving on Clarke College campus gave expression to the Thanksgiving spirit on Tuesday, November 26, designated Day of Thanksgiving at the junior college.

## Seminary Choirs Schedule Three Christmas Concerts

Tolling in the Yuletide season at New Orleans Seminary this year will be three concerts presented by the Division of Church Music Ministries in Levee Chapel. Scheduled are Christmas Music Festival, Dec. 6; Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 12; and Christmas music chapel program, Dec. 17.

The Christmas Music Festival, which will be presented at 8:15 p.m. on Dec. 6, will feature five groups. The Chamber Choir, a 24-voice mixed ensemble, will present Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata" under the baton of Joel Reed. Accompanying them will be the Instrumental Ensemble, directed by Perry Carroll.

The 86-voice Seminary Choir, conducted by Dr. Larry Wyatt of Loyola

University, will perform "Festival Te Deum" by Britten.

Also on the program will be a medley of Christmas carols, ranging from the 15th to the 20th centuries, sung by the Seminarians, a 15-voice male group under the direction of Mr. Carroll.

Rounding out the presentation will be a variety of carols played by the Handbell Choir, led by Bob Nell.

On Dec. 12 the Seminary Choir will join the Loyola University Chorus and the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony for a presentation of Handel's "Messiah" at the seminary.

Final musical presentation of the season will be a chapel program of Christmas music at 10 a.m. on Dec. 17. The Chamber Choir, Seminarians,

## Linwood Church Calls Bobby Thompson

Rev. Bobby Thompson has accepted the pastorate of Linwood Church in Neshoba Association.

A native of Scott County, Rev. Thompson is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He was licensed and ordained by his home church, Leesburg in Rankin Association. He has pastored churches in Louisiana and Mississippi. His last pastorate was of Highland Church, Vicksburg, where he served 4½ years.

During his Vicksburg pastorate, Highland had more than 450 additions by baptism and letter and completed a \$240,000 sanctuary, bringing the church property value to \$300,000. Additional property was acquired and improved and a bus ministry was started. Highland's budget was increased from \$32,000 to \$95,000. Rev. Thompson served as president of Warren Baptist Ministerial Association and as Vice-Moderator of Warren Baptist Association.

Mrs. Thompson is the former Lindrith Jones of Canton. A graduate of William Carey College, she led in the organization of the Highland Kindergarten and served as director.

Rev. and Mrs. Thompson have two sons, Revray Zane, six years and Bobby Brent, nine months old.

## Revival Results

First Church, Sebring, Fla.: Rev. C. Lonnie Earnest, pastor; Rev. James Fancher, Jackson, preaching evangelist; J. B. Betts, Southaven, music evangelist; 29 professions of faith; four by letter; 53 rededications.

Handbell Choir, and Instrumental Ensemble will participate.



## "Truth" Musicians At Daniel Memorial

"TRUTH" is coming to Jackson on Sunday, December 8. This touring music company of 18 will be appearing at Daniel Memorial Baptist Church at 7 p.m. They've traveled over a quarter of a million miles sharing, through a bright and powerful sound, their witness for Christ, through music.

In fact, they are the only group in the church traveling constantly with their own big band. With eight albums recorded, TRUTH is heard on radio and also seen on network television every day. Make your plans to see and hear TRUTH appearing at Daniel. Admission is free but there will be a love offering received.



## West Jackson Church Installs Steeple

West Jackson Church, Jackson, has recently installed a steeple, in memory of a former member, Mrs. Ruth Shepherd. The fiberglass steeple, 39 feet tall, was purchased by a \$3000 bequest from the estate of Mrs. Shepherd. It is a lighted steeple and visible for several blocks. A plaque, to the memory of Mrs. Shepherd, will be placed in the vestibule.

NATANYA, Israel — Mrs. J. D. (Evelyn) Hughes, a special guest of the annual meeting of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries here, called the meeting "an opening of hearts." The meeting was unusual this year, according to missionary press representative Mrs. James W. Smith, in that the usual business and programs were dismissed in lieu of "unhurried sharing sessions." Worship services were held in both small conversational prayer groups and larger groups. Representatives were asked to share personal experiences and reflections and pray for each other. New officers were elected and special recognitions given.

## Mt. Zion Homecoming Set For Dec. 8

Homecoming Day at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Rankin County has been set for Dec. 8. The address will be by Rev. Johnny Jones of Pearl, a former pastor.

Services will begin with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and worship service at 11:00. Lunch will be served at the church and other former pastors will speak in the afternoon. All members, former members, friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend.

## Off The Record

Overheard through the backyard fence:

"That's a nice bed of lettuce."

"Yes, it looks pretty good, doesn't it?"

"I suppose the cool, wet weather has helped."

"No doubt about it."

"Isn't it likely that some of it will go to seed and be wasted?"

"Yes, I think that's probable."

"Well, you may think I've got a lot of nerve, but would you mind if I took a mess home?"

"I haven't any objection."

The man got busy with his pocket-knife, and then said: "Thanks. Incidentally, what variety of lettuce is this?"

"I can't answer that. Why not ask the owner of the garden?"

Forgetful Husband: "Say, Bill, I want you to help me out of an awful pickle. I promised to meet my wife at one o'clock for luncheon, and I can't remember where. Would you mind ringing her up at our house and asking her, quite casually, you know, where I'm likely to be about that time?"

"Oh, what a lovely cow!" exclaimed the cute young miss from the city. "But why hasn't it any of those big horns?"

"There are many reasons," the farmer replied quietly. "Some cows do not have them until later in life. Others have them removed, while still other breeds are born without horns. This cow does not have horns because it is a horse."

Two foremen were comparing notes. "Do all the boys in your shop drop their tools the moment the whistle blows?" asked one.

"No, not at all," replied the other foreman. "The orderly ones have their tools all put away before that time."

My Proper Place?

A lady was somewhat disturbed to find herself seated at the left of her host instead of at the right, where she thought she should have been. "I suppose," she said, "it isn't always easy for you to seat people in their proper places."

"Oh," said the host, "I find that those who matter don't mind, and those who mind don't matter."

—Letourneau 'Now'



First, Verona has broken ground for a new pastorial. Construction is underway on a four-bedroom colonial home in Carr Vista, Verona. Contract was awarded to

Rich Construction Company, Verona. Rev. Raymond Glover is pastor.